

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA 160-A, Bright Star

#### Summary

#### Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  
No for units 160A-1 and 160A-3.  
Yes for unit 160A-2.
2. Does the area appear to be natural? NO for unit 160A-2.
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? N/A

#### Conclusion

**The area does not have wilderness characteristics.**

#### Prepared by:

#### Team Member:



Marty Dicks, Wilderness Coordinator, BLM Ridgecrest FO

Date: 10-18-13

#### Approved by:

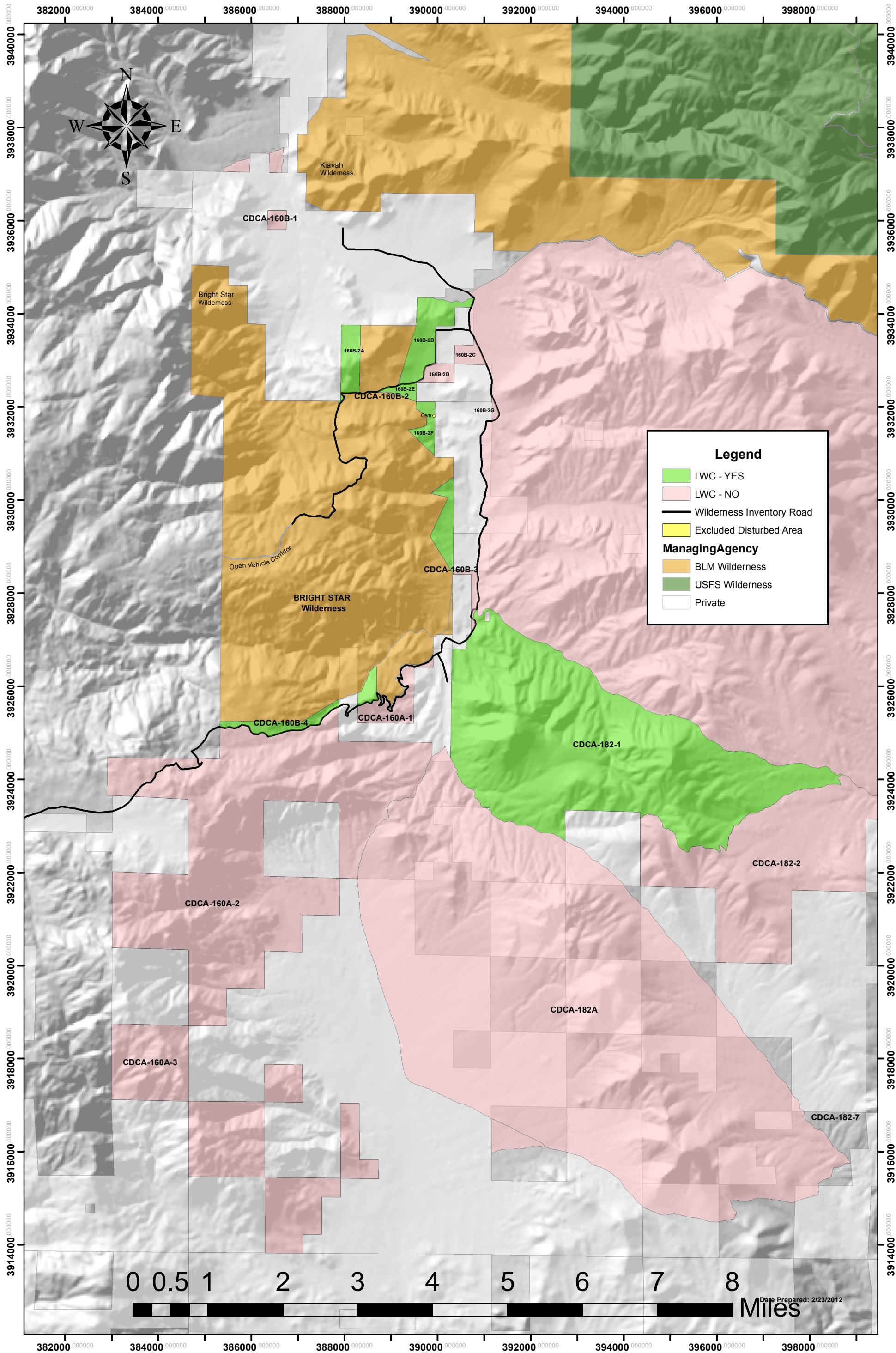


Carl B. Symons, Field Manager

10/25/2013

Date

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*



FINAL COMPOSITE INVENTORY MAP  
WIU #CDCA 160A & 160B (BRIGHT STAR)  
October 25, 2013



Year **2013** Inventory Unit Number/Name **WIU #CDCA 160A (Bright Star) Units**

## FORM 1

### Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings On Record

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area? Yes**

**Inventory Source:** 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM Ridgecrest FO

**Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** WIU #CDCA 160A

**Map Name(s)/Number(s):** USDI BLM CASO Wilderness Final Inventory, March 31, 1979

**BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Ridgecrest Field Office

### 2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics:

Inventory Source: 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM, Ridgecrest FO

Unit#/Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1979 Findings within WIU #CDCA 160A	N <5,000 acres of contiguous public land	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013 Findings within WIU #CDCA 160A-1	N 192.64 Non- contiguous acres	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013 Findings within WIU #CDCA 160A-2	Y 5,301.85 acres	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013 Findings within WIU #CDCA 160A-3	N 2,278.88 Non- contiguous acres	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

The original 1979 WIU #160A was bounded on the north by Piute Mountain Road; on the east by the Kelso Valley Road; on the south by the Jawbone Canyon Road; and on the west by Sequoia National Forest.

The original inventory unit did not appear to contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land. As a consequence, the area was dropped from further consideration as it did not meet the size criteria to make practicable its preservation and use as wilderness in an unimpaired condition.

Today, several large parcels of private land are still found within the original WIU boundary. These parcels separate and isolate portions of publicly-owned land, so that the public land within the unit must be divided into three discrete units, corresponding to the units identified above as WIU 160A-1, 160A-2, and 160A-3. Of these three units, only one, 160A-2 at 5,301.85 acres, meets the size requirement; 160A-1 (192.64 acres) and 160A-3 (2,178.88 acres) do not.

Note: 160A-1 was formerly privately-owned. It came into public ownership with the Audubon addition to the Bright Star Wilderness in 2011. At the time, it was agreed that BLM would not accept this portion of the donation as wilderness because it was separated in its entirety from the Bright Star Wilderness by a county-maintained, graded dirt road (the the Piute Mountain Road).

The 160A-2 unit is also separated by the Piute Mountain Road from the Bright Star Wilderness. It meets the size requirement at 5,301.85 acres as a stand-alone unit. However, it barely meets the size requirement and roughly one-fifth of the area has been heavily-impacted by illegal dirt bike use in the vicinity of the Pacific Crest Trail and St John's Ridge and the area immediately northeast of St. John's Ridge. These impacts are felt to be substantial enough to disqualify the area for wilderness consideration for lack of sufficient naturalness.

## **FORM 2**

### **Documentation Of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions**

Unit Number/Name **WIU #CDCA 160A, Bright Star**

#### **(1) Sufficient size**

**No for Units 160A-1 and 160A-3.**

**Yes for Unit 160A-2.**

**Acreage:** Units 160A-1 and 160A-3 are comprised of 192.64 and 2,178.88 acres of public land respectively. Unit 160A-2 is comprised of 5,301.85 acres of public land. 2013 acreages were calculated in GIS.

**Boundary revision:** Boundaries have been adjusted to exclude all private land within the original WIU boundary. This has resulted in three separate subunits. Adjustments reflect the current land status, including some changes in private ownership and recent public acquisitions. See attached map.

#### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Land ownership:** BLM (192.6, 1,179, and 5,302 acres respectively); private inholdings (0 acres).

**Location:** Kern County, approximately 30 miles southeast of the town of Lake Isabella and 50 miles southwest of Ridgecrest, California. These units are located south of the Piute Mountain Road and the Bright Star Wilderness boundary and east of the Ridgecrest/CDD BLM and Sequoia National Forest boundary.

**Topography:** Mountainous, steep terrain. Elevations range from 4,000'-7,650'.

**Vegetation features:** Pinyon-juniper foothill pine forest is the dominant natural community but vegetation types range from perennial grassland, bitterbrush and yucca scrub to the east, live oak and relictual Jeffrey pine stands to the west. These sections are located in an ecological transition zone which supports many unusual plant associations, combining species from coastal scrub, southern mountain chaparral, Sierran foothill woodlands, Great Basin pinyon forests, and Mohavean scrub.

**Major human uses/activities:** Hunting, camping, and hiking throughout the area. Backpacking and horseback riding along the Pacific Crest Trail. Off-road vehicle riding, particularly concentrated in the northeast quadrant of unit 160A-2. Some BLM sections are completely surrounded by private lands with no public vehicle access.